

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1356
By DeBerry L

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the past and present members of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity upon the celebration of their 100th Anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly recognize those estimable organizations that, through an unflagging commitment to excellence and devotion to the sacred principles of equality and justice, have contributed substantially to the social fabric of the State of Tennessee and this great Nation; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable organization is Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, the first and oldest intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity established for African-Americans; and

WHEREAS, founded on December 4, 1906, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity was established at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, by seven college men who recognized the need for a strong bond of brotherhood among African descendents in this country; and

WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity was founded by visionaries known as the “Jewels” of the fraternity: Henry Arthur Callis, Charles Henry Chapman, Eugene Kinckle Jones, George Biddle Kelley, Nathaniel Allison Murray, Robert Harold Ogle, and Vertner Woodson Tandy; and

WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity initially served as a study and support group for minority students who faced educational and social prejudice, and their original meeting place was located at 421 North Albany Street, Ithaca, New York; and

WHEREAS, the Jewel founders and early leaders of the fraternity succeeded in laying a firm foundation of principles of scholarship, fellowship, good character, and the uplifting of humanity; and

WHEREAS, incorporated on January 29, 1908, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity chapters were developed at other colleges and universities, many of which were historically black institutions; and

WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity continues to spread across the globe with hundreds of chapters located throughout the United States, Caribbean Islands, Africa, West Indies, Europe, and Asia; Alpha Phi Alpha has 800 chapters worldwide with over 160,000 members; and

WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity stresses academic excellence among its members and recognizes the educational, economic, political, and social challenges faced by African-Americans nationally and internationally; and

WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity mandates many programs to combat these social ills, including Project Alpha, Go To High School, Go To College, and A Voteless People Is A Hopeless People; and

WHEREAS, famous members of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity include Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., W. E. B. Dubois, Paul Robeson, Dick Gregory, John Hope Franklin, Thurgood Marshall, Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., United States Vice President Hubert Humphrey, Adam Clayton Ellington, and Jesse Owens; and

WHEREAS, since its inception in 1906, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity has supplied voice and vision to the struggle of African-Americans and people of color around the world; and

WHEREAS, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity is celebrating its Centennial Anniversary in Washington, D.C., on July 25th – July 30th 2006, commemorating the fraternity's tremendous legacy of manly deeds, scholarship, and love for mankind; and

WHEREAS, this legislative body should specially recognize Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity on this special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate the past and present members of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity upon the celebration of their 100th Anniversary, commend them for their dutiful

and meritorious service to African-Americans and the citizens of the State of Tennessee, and wish them every success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.